

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a constant or substantially constant force for correcting spinal deformities, the method comprising:

providing a correction force having a predetermined amount, the correction force being generated by a superelastic material at body temperature without using an external heating source, the superelastic material having a transition temperature within the range of body temperature; and

maintaining the correction force at the predetermined amount until the spinal deformities are fully or substantially fully corrected;

wherein the correction force is constant or substantially constant during spinal deformity correction.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the predetermined amount of the correction force can be adjusted.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the correction force is activated during the spine correction surgery.

Claims 23 - 27 (Cancelled).

28. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the correction force is applied to the deformed spine portion from the anterior aspect of the spine.

29. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the correction force is applied to the deformed spine portion from the posterior aspect of the spine.

Claims 30 - 31 (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the superelastic material forms a correction device to assume the normal kyphosis and lordosis of the spine.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising deforming the correction device to conform to the portion of the spine to be corrected.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising limiting the correction device from movement.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising limiting the correction device from a rotation movement.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a constant or substantially constant force for correcting spinal deformities, the method comprising:

providing a supporting member comprising a superelastic material for generating a correction force having a predetermined amount, the superelastic material having a transition temperature within the range of body temperature; and

maintaining the correction force at the predetermined amount until the spinal deformities are fully or substantially fully corrected;

wherein the supporting member generates the correction force at body temperature without using external heating source.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising deforming at least a portion of the supporting member to conform to the spinal deformities.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the predetermined amount of the correction force can be adjusted.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the correction force is activated during the spine correction surgery.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising pre-contouring the supporting member to assume the normal kyphosis and lordosis of the spine.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising limiting the supporting member from movement.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising limiting the supporting member from a rotation movement.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising providing an anchor member for mounting the supporting member to the deformed spine portion.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the anchor member comprises a superelastic material.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the anchor member comprises a pseudoelastic material.